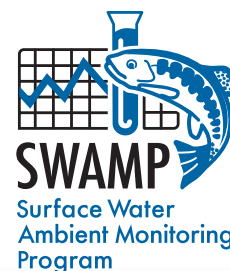




Fact Sheet **Region 4**



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Overview

With more than 10 million residents, the Los Angeles Region is the most densely populated region in the state. Agriculture and open space exist alongside urban, residential, commercial and industrial areas. Open spaces in northern Los Angeles County are steadily giving way to residential communities. The Los Angeles Regional Board regulates over 1,000 point source discharges of wastewater.

The region has designated 10 watershed management areas. The Los Angeles and San Gabriel River watersheds are heavily urbanized in their lower stretches but retain largely undeveloped open space areas in their upper portions. The Santa Monica Bay Watershed contains a mixture of urbanized and more rural areas, all of which drain into Santa Monica Bay, a designated waterbody under the National Estuary Program. The Santa Clara River, Ventura River and Calleguas Creek watersheds contain many small urban centers, but also support large areas of agriculture. The Dominguez Channel Watershed is a heavily urbanized and industrialized area, which drains into Los Angeles Harbor which, in combination with Long Beach Harbor, forms the largest industrial port on the West Coast.



The Los Angeles Region encompasses all of the coastal watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, along with small portions of Kern and Santa Barbara counties and the drainages of five coastal islands (Anacapa, San Nicolas, Santa Barbara, Santa Catalina and San Clemente). The region also includes all coastal waters within three miles of the continental and island coastlines.

Most precipitation in the Los Angeles Region occurs during just a few major storms each year, averaging from about 15 inches annually in Ventura County to almost 40 inches in certain mountainous areas. Average rainfall is slightly lower in Los Angeles County, but varies widely between the valleys and the mountains.



Water Facts

4,447 square miles of land,
including offshore islands

1,115 miles of streams

12,107 acres of lakes

120 miles of coastline



www.waterboards.ca.gov/swamp

Los Angeles Region

Vision and Goals for Monitoring

The goal of Los Angeles Regional SWAMP is to monitor all waters throughout the Los Angeles Region and identify those with degraded water quality and those with high water quality. The two main objectives of the regional SWAMP program are to:

- Assess whether beneficial uses in the region's inland, estuarine and coastal waters are being protected.
- Assess whether water quality conditions are getting better or worse over time.

The monitoring priorities to meet the objectives include plans to:

- Assess 10 watersheds in the region at least once every five years on a rotational basis.
- Assess wadeable streams via triad approach: health of biological community (bioassessment), water column toxicity and water chemistry (conventional pollutants, trace metals, trace organics).
- Assess estuaries via triad approach.
- Assess overall condition of large watersheds (Santa Clara River, Los Angeles River, San Gabriel River) via probabilistic randomized sampling design.
- Assess bioaccumulation of pollutants in fish and invertebrates in selected waterbodies.

Program Activity

The region's numerous monitoring and assessment accomplishments include completion of:

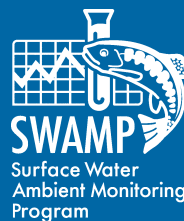
- Directed sampling at 13 sites in Calleguas Creek Watershed, 59 sites in Santa Monica Bay Watershed and 25 sites in Dominguez Channel and Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor watersheds.
- Randomized/directed sampling at 38 sites in Santa Clara River Watershed, 19 sites in Los Angeles River Watershed and 36 sites in San Gabriel River Watershed.
- Program design to monitor Channel Islands, Ventura River and miscellaneous Coastal Ventura watersheds (32 sites).
- A final report assessing Calleguas/Santa Clara River watersheds.
- A final report assessing Santa Monica Bay Watershed.

Collaborative Efforts

A collaboration between regional board staff and the San Gabriel River Regional Watershed Monitoring Group resulted in the execution of a comprehensive monitoring program designed by the two groups that would not have been possible individually. The groups originally intended to combine SWAMP monitoring resources with those available from other local monitoring efforts to conduct a randomized probabilistic monitoring survey at 30 stations within the watershed, as well as sampling at several directed sites. However, SWAMP resources allowed sampling only at the directed sites and 15 randomized sites, and the local stakeholder group could not afford to pay for the entire monitoring program.

The regional board and several interested stakeholders were able to combine resources to implement a comprehensive regional monitoring program. Funding is provided through a combination of SWAMP monitoring funds; monitoring required under Los Angeles County Sanitation District's NPDES permits and under Los Angeles County Department of Public Works' NPDES storm water permit; volunteer monitoring conducted by Friends of the San Gabriel River and the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy; and monitoring conducted by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project.

Sampling was initiated in summer 2005 and additional sampling will be conducted each year.



For more information on SWAMP in the Los Angeles Region, please contact:

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